



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2010

Sacramento, California

(Approved 8-5-10)

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on March 4, 2010 at 9:10 AM at the Sacramento City Council Chambers in Sacramento, CA.

Called to order and Roll call

Members Present: Chairman Curt Pringle
Vice Chairman Tom Umberg (remotely from Camp Eggers, Afghanistan)
Russell Burns
David Crane
Rod Diridon, Sr.
Fran Florez
Richard Katz
Quentin Kopp
Lynn Schenk

Pledge of Allegiance

Administered by Member Florez.

Public Comment

Chairman Pringle opened the floor for public comment. Public comment was offered by several city and county representatives, as well as concerned citizens.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

This item was continued without objection.

Executive Director Search

Chairman Pringle invited Stuart Satow from CPS to provide a brief update on the Executive Director recruitment.

Mr. Satow stated that advertisements had been placed in the appropriate transportation publications and websites, as well as direct outreach to potential interested candidates. For the direct outreach Mr. Satow stated he had enlisted the assistance of Stephanie Pinson of Gilbert Tweed for that task due to her vast experience conducting such recruitments in the transportation industry nationwide. To date 45 applications had been submitted.

Chairman Pringle publicly thanked Stuart Satow and CPS for meeting the Board's deadline and providing candidates from across the country for the Board to consider.

Executive/Administration Committee Report

Chairman Pringle reported that the full Committee membership had a complete legislative update of all the bills currently pending.

Chairman Pringle stated the committee recommended a motion to take formal action on a number of pending bills especially, AB 2121 opposed, SB409 move from an opposed to a monitor, take a formal monitor position on SB 964 and SB 965, and take an opposed position on AB2356.

Member Kopp moved the recommendation, Member Florez seconded, motion passed 9-0.

Deputy Director Jeff Barker gave a presentation on the Business Plan addendum. Mr. Barker stated there were a number of questions from Senators and criticisms from the Legislative Analyst's Office that needed to be addressed. Mr. Barker would provide that information at the April board meeting so the committee and the board could provide input and approval.

Operations Committee Report

Member Katz discussed the significant progress made by Mehdi Morshed, Carrie Pourvahidi, Jeff Barker and Kristy Black of Ogilvy on communications. The progress that has been made and complimented them on the direction that they are heading was well received.

Member Katz stated that Tony Daniels gave a presentation on the monthly progress of the project. There still needs to be some work on the reports to make them more "reader friendly". One of the main concerns is keeping the ARRA projects on schedule, Mr. Daniels assured the Operations Committee that those projects were on pace. Member Katz voiced the Committees concern of making decisions during the interim period without a CEO that could jeopardize the ARRA funding.

Finance Committee Report

Member Crane stated that the Finance Committee was unable to meet this month, and had nothing to report.

Appointment of Interim Executive Director

Chairman Pringle recommended to the Board the appointment of Chief Deputy Director Carrie Pourvahidi to serve as the Interim Executive Director from the time that Mr. Morshed retires to the time a new CEO is hired. Member Diridon so moved, member Kopp seconded and the motion passed 9-0.

LOSSAN Corridor MOU

Executive Director Morshed provided a brief overview of the LOSSAN Corridor MOU. Member Schenk moved to approve, member Katz seconded and the motion passed 9-0.

Vision California

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt gave a brief overview of the "Vision California" study and introduced Peter Calthorpe from Calthorpe Associates to make a presentation. Mr. Calthorpe's presentation is available on the Authority's website www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

Public comment on this agenda item was given by a number of individuals.

Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Revised Draft Program Environmental Impact Report Material

Deputy Director Leavitt stated that adopting of resolution HSRA 10-012, in December, the Authority rescinded its July 2008 approvals, certifications, and findings related to the Bay Area to Central Valley Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR). The Authority also directed staff to prepare the needed revisions to the EIR and circulate them in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Authority staff has prepared the necessary corrections to the Program EIR and will be circulating revised draft material for public review and comment. The new document is entitled "Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Revised Draft Program Environmental Impact Report Material." The revised draft program EIR materials address the issues identified by the Superior Court in the Town of Atherton final judgment.

The CEQA public comment period for the Revised Draft Program EIR Materials will last for 45 days, commencing on March 11, 2010, and concluding at the close of business on April 26, 2010. Comments can be received at the Authority with the subject line "Bay Area to Central Valley Revised Draft Program EIR Material Comments" by regular U.S. mail, via email, or by fax.

The plan is have a public meeting to be held to receive comment on the revised draft on April 8th in San Jose. At the close of public comment period, response will be prepared and included in the revised final EIR. The final document will be made public and brought back to the Board for a new decision on certifying the EIR and selecting a preferred alignment and station locations.

Chairman Pringle invited public comment. A number of individuals voiced their concern over the revised EIR.

Members Reports

Chairman Pringle called for member reports.

Member Diridon reported on the CSU task force to look at ways of satisfying the employment needs for high-speed rail. Additionally, the Mineta Transportation Institute was requested by the USDOT to conduct a comprehensive work force needs assessment for the nation's 13 high-speed rail corridors to determine the unique education skills required for this new transportation system in the United States.

Member Kopp expressed his gratitude to the service Executive Director Morshed has provided not only to the High-Speed Rail Authority but to the State of California.

Member Schenk thanked Executive Director Morshed for his service to the State and for their friendship.

Member Burns thanked Executive Director Morshed for the time he had taken to educate him on the project.

Member Crane congratulated Executive Director Morshed on the success he had bringing this project as far as he did.

Member Umberg stated Executive Director Morshed was a hero of transportation in California, leaving a remarkable legacy behind.

Member Florez thanked Executive Director Morshed for all of his efforts in keeping this project alive with few resources and even less staff.

Member Diridon thanked Executive Director Morshed for his stubbornness, sticking with this project when times were good and times were bad.

Member Katz thanked Executive Director Morshed for all of his years of service to the State and especially to the High-Speed Rail Authority.

Chairman Pringle thanked Executive Director Morshed for all the hard work he has put in over the years with little compensation bringing this project to fruition. Chairman Pringle on behalf of the entire board presented a gift basket.

Executive Director Morshed thanked the Board for all of their kind words, thanked staff for their tireless work on the project.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Morshed informed the Board on the upcoming release of the Bureau of State Auditors report.

Executive Director Morshed pointed out that the next scheduled board meeting is April 1st which is the day after a State holiday; therefore he suggested the meeting be moved to April 8th. The suggestion was approved by the board.

The meeting went into recess for the Closed Session portion of the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

The Board returned to the public meeting and with no action being taken during the closed session and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.